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Federal election 2008

Local candidates respond to issues of concern to Jewish community

By Michael Regenstreif

Security concerns, both for Jewish facilities in the Ottawa area and for Israel, particularly in the face of the Iranian nuclear threat, as well as the difficult economy, dominated the discussions when candidates for the Conservative Party, the Liberal

Party and the New Democratic Party (NDP) met with the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Communications and Community Relations Committee in roundtable discussions.

Each of the three leading parties contesting the October 14 federal

election spent a (separate) hour with the committee in meetings on September 23 and 25.

The Conservatives were represented by four candidates: John Baird (Ottawa West-Nepean), Brian McGarry (Ottawa Centre), Pierre Poilievre (Nepean-Carleton) and

Elie Salibi (Ottawa South).

Two candidates represented the Liberal Party: Penny Collenette (Ottawa Centre) and David Pratt (Ottawa West-Nepean).

The NDP was represented by five candidates: Phil Brown (Nepean-Carleton), Hijal De Sarkar (Ottawa South), Paul Dewar (Ottawa Centre), Trevor Haché (Ottawa-Vanier) and Marlene Rivier (Ottawa West-Nepean).

Before questions from the committee, each of the parties was invited to make introductory remarks.

Poilievre came out swinging on behalf of the Conservative Party accusing the other parties of being supportive of Israel in front of Jewish audiences while telling a different story to others.

He said the Harper government has been unconditional in its support for Israel, at home, at the United Nations and in the Francophonie in whatever circumstances, including during the war with Hezbollah in Lebanon two years ago.

Poilievre was supported in his comments by the other Conservative candidates, including Salibi, who said that he was proud, as a Lebanese-Canadian, to stand with Harper's position on Israel and the Middle East.

Baird said that his, and the party's, support for Israel was a matter of principle rather than political expediency.

"There are 11,000 Muslims and

Arabs in my riding and only 2,800 Jews. It's not a crass strategy to get votes," he said.

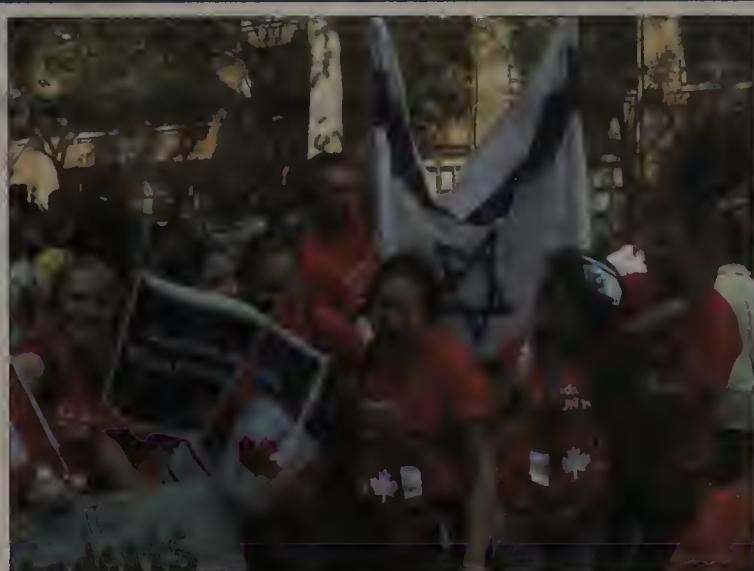
At the meeting with the Liberals, Collenette said that her involvement with the Jewish community began in the 1980s when she helped organize an international committee of political spouses to lobby on behalf of Soviet Jewry. Her husband is former MP and cabinet minister David Collenette.

Pratt, who served as minister of defence in Paul Martin's government, cited his work, 20 years ago, with the Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, his trips to Israel as an MP – he was defeated in the last election – and since as an official of the Canadian Red Cross. He was involved in negotiating the Third Additional Protocol to the Geneva Convention, which allowed for Israel's admission to the international Red Cross movement.

Opening for the NDP, Dewar and Rivier spoke about the importance of community involvement, with Dewar praising the Soloway Jewish Community Centre as a hub for community activity and Rivier calling attention to the community's involvement in Tikkun Olam.

Brown mentioned that he'd worked with Tamir on a recent project and pointed out that his mother was a survivor of the Armenian genocide, giving him a deep personal connection to issues

(Continued on page 2)



Canadian students protest at UN

Ottawa organizer Ariella Kimmel (far left) with other Canadian students at anti-Ahmadiyya rally in New York. See Campus Life column on page 9.

(Photo: courtesy of Ariella Kimmel)

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All condemn Ahmadinejad

(Continued from page 1)

surrounding the Holocaust, Holocaust-denial and human rights.

Iran

The main international issue that the committee raised with the candidates pertained to sanctions against Iran in its quest for nuclear capability, particularly in the face of the continuing threats by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to wipe Israel off the map.

There was a consensus from all of the candidates about the importance of imposing sanctions on the Iranian regime.

Responding for the Conservatives, Baird said Iran is the single biggest threat facing the world today.

"Hitler," Baird said, "was a little bit more nuanced than Ahmadinejad."

While Baird couldn't commit the government to specific actions, he said sanctions against Iran must be tough and that Canada shouldn't be afraid to go even further than other countries in applying steps to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear capability.

Speaking for the Liberals, Pratt said, "There continues to be a lot of concern in terms of what Ahmadinejad has said in the past and what he's likely to do in the future," adding that his comments "are inflammatory for a purpose. He wants to incite."

Pratt went on to say that, in certain circumstances, there "has to be a response to actions rather than just words, especially when you're dealing with nuclear weapons, because the thought of a nuclear conflagration in that region is almost unthinkable."

When asked about differences between the Liberal and Conservative Parties on the issue of Iran, Pratt said that, while the differences between the two parties are great on domestic issues, they have less room for differences on matters of international security.

"Canada's fundamental interests have not changed," he said. "Our security interests remain connected to the North Atlantic triangle

of Western Europe, the United States and Canada. We have generally the same interests in terms of the Middle East."

Responding for the NDP, Dewar referred first to the "incendiary and vile rhetoric coming from Ahmadinejad," and said it needs to be identified for what it is.

Dewar went on to say that the past use of sanctions, as in the case of Burma, was a "paper tiger" because they only targeted future investment and ignored existing Canadian investment.

Dewar said that if Canada was going to apply SEMA (Special Economic Measures Act) sanctions against Iran, they would be supported by the NDP, if they were "real sanctions and not rhetorical sanctions." Going after future, but not existing, investment is nothing but a "rhetorical exercise," he said.

Dewar added that Canada needs to get its house in order vis-à-vis "fissionable materials, the truck and trade of uranium in our country and nuclear proliferation in the world."

Dewar also said that sanctions "have to go after the regime and not affect the people," a point that was reiterated by Brown who said a distinction between the Iranian regime and the Iranian people must be clearly drawn.

Economy

The economic crisis in the United States was in full swing while the meetings with the three parties were taking place.

The committee expressed concern that the fallout from the American crisis, as well as the loss of manufacturing jobs in Ontario in recent years, signified a downturn in the Canadian economy that could affect the Federation's ability to fundraise and thus compromise services to vulnerable populations like seniors, the impoverished and the disabled. The parties were asked how they would respond to the economic crisis and assist vulnerable populations.

McGarry began the Conservative response by saying the key to Canadian economic suc-



(From left to right): Conservative Party candidate Brian McGarry, Federation Chair Jonathan Freedman, candidates John Baird, Pierre Poilievre and Elie Salibi, and Federation President Mitchell Bellman.

(OJB photo: Michael Regenstreif)



(From left to right): Federation Chair Jonathan Freedman, NDP candidates Hjal De Sarker, Phil Brown, Marlene Rivier and Paul Dewar, Federation President Mitchell Bellman and candidate Trevor Haché.

(OJB photo: Michael Regenstreif)

cess was ensuring that small business, which, he said, drives 78 per cent of the Canadian economy, remains viable.

Baird said that most social assistance programs fall within provincial jurisdiction, but that the federal government does have a role to play on behalf of those who are most vulnerable.

Poilievre, with the support of the other Conservative candidates present, said he was pushing for government action that would give charities the same kind of lucrative tax credits as political parties.

"Right now, if someone gives to a charity," he said, "they get 17 per cent of their first \$1,000 back. If they give the same \$1,000 dollars to a political party, they get \$550. An Ottawa lobbyist giving to a political party gets more money back than someone of mod-

est income giving to a food bank. We need to support the role of the charitable sector."

Poilievre also attacked the Liberal plan for a carbon tax saying that it would be highly inflationary, particularly for people on fixed incomes or of modest means.

Baird added that the best way to prevent or alleviate poverty is through employment and said there was a net increase of 800,000 jobs in Canada during the mandate of the Harper government.

Pratt, for the Liberals, said that the previous Liberal government left office with a \$13 billion surplus that has been brought down to a \$550 million deficit in the first two months of this fiscal year by the Conservatives.

According to Pratt, the federal government "needs fiscal flexibility and the powers to get

(Continued on page 4)

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Parties united on Iran, divergent on economy

(Continued from page 2) things done at a national level." He said the government's flexibility was compromised by tax breaks and tax cuts and said the GST cuts in the last mandate were the wrong approach.

"Just about every economist in the country, with the exception of Mr. Harper, agrees that it was consumption taxes that should have been maintained and income taxes cut."

Pratt added that the Harper government had a desire to strip powers from the federal government and shift them to the provinces.

"That concerns me, as I've always believed in the necessity of a strong central government and the need for the federal government to be active in areas of social need.

"What we have now is a federal government that is re-

ally hampered by its inability to respond, and ideologically, I don't think it's predisposed towards a response."

The Conservative government, said Pratt, lacks compassion.

Rivier began the NDP response to the question on the economic crisis by noting that a quarter-million manufacturing jobs have been lost in recent years and that Canada has the same number of homeless people.

"That should be an embarrassment to all Canadians because we have a very robust economy," she said.

Rivier went on to attack recent Canadian governments, both Conservative and Liberal, for running surpluses while the incomes of middle- and lower-income Canadians have shrunk with many "drowning in debt" thus causing "decreasing so-



From left to right: Liberal Party candidate David Pratt, Federation Chair Jonathan Freedman, Vice-Chair Donna Dolansky, candidate Penny Collenette and Federation President Mitchell Bellman.

(OJB photo: Michael Regenstreif)

cial mobility."

Rivier pointed to the NDP's job strategy to replace lost manufacturing jobs.

"It's not adequate to replace them with low-wage jobs," she said, adding that a federal minimum wage needs to be reinstated and the federal government needs to provide leadership to the provinces in this area. "In this province we have a minimum wage that is below the poverty line."

Rivier added that the NDP's job strategy centres on the creation of more green jobs.

"It escapes me why previous governments have not recognized the importance of replacing lost manufacturing jobs with green jobs and investment in new environmental initiatives to create a 21st century economy," she said.

Dewar also said the NDP would provide sustainable funding to community organizations such as Jewish Family Services who are charged with looking after vulnerable populations such as seniors and newcomers to Canada.

Security

Noting that Jews represent about one per cent of Canada's population but are the targets of 25 per cent of hate crimes in the country, the Federation reminded the candidates of each of the parties of the \$74,000 in matching funds received to enhance security on the Jewish Community Campus from

the federal government's Security Infrastructure Pilot Program (SIPP) but, that with 29 Jewish agencies, including schools and synagogues, spread throughout the city, the community remains at risk.

The committee asked the candidates if they favoured making the SIPP program permanent with expanded funding.

Candidates from all three parties voiced strong support for the continuation of the security program.

"I would strongly support the continuance of the program," said Baird with all of the other Conservative candidates nodding in agreement. Baird noted that, along with Poilievre, Stockwell Day and Jason Kenney, he was among the Conservative MPs who strongly pushed for the initial establishment of the SIPP program.

"I'd like to see it increased," Baird added, when

asked about the budget allocated to the program.

Responding for the Liberals, Collenette pointed out that the 2004 firebombing of the United Talmud Torah in Montreal took place in the riding of Stéphane Dion, the Liberal Party leader, and said that Dion had already pledged to provide \$75 million for at-risk, non-profit organizations.

"When there is a real issue of security, you have to deal with it," added Pratt. "It sounds to me like the program is functioning pretty well, so I'd be open to support for it."

Responding for the NDP, Dewar voiced support for the continuation of the SIPP program and also called for providing municipalities with the resources they need to provide faith communities with the kind of police protection they need at schools, places of worship and community centres.

"That protection," he said, "is provided to politicians at the snap of a finger. Why can't we do that for our communities?"

Allan Taylor

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Guest speaker Linda Hooper (centre) with Women's Division campaign chair Dorothy Stern (left) and event chair Roslyn Kimmel at the Women's Division 36th anniversary celebration September 21.

(Photo: Sam Garcia)

Linda Hooper inspires at Women's Campaign event

By Diane Koven

If every school child could have even one teacher like Linda Hooper, there is no doubt the world would be a better place.

Hooper, the principal of little Whitwell Middle School in Whitwell, Tennessee – what, you haven't heard of it? – launched a project more than 10 years ago to teach students about tolerance, acceptance of others and the beauty of living in a world of diversity. The project, which taught about the Holocaust, spiralled into something so huge and far-reaching that a book and movie have been produced about it, and Hooper travels the world telling the inspirational story of her students.

As keynote speaker at the Jewish Federation of Ottawa Women's Campaign 36th anniversary celebration, Hooper had many members of the audience in tears as she explained how the project began, how it progressed and the effect it has had on the students, the staff and the entire town of Whitwell.

Hooper described the atmosphere in the little town of Whitwell, deep in the American South. There are 12 evangelical, "white" churches within a mile of the school; the people of the town have rarely seen a person of colour and have never met a Jew.

"There are no Jewish people in our area. Our kids are not exposed to any other cultures," said Hooper in explaining the magnitude of this project's effect on the local citizens.

Because of the sheer inability to imagine what six million of *anything* looks like, the students decided to collect that many items to help them visualize the number of Jewish

people murdered during the Holocaust.

Using the Internet, they discovered that a Norwegian Jew had invented the paper clip and that Norwegians had worn paper clips to show their solidarity with their Jewish neighbours during the Second World War; thus was born the idea for the students to collect paper clips.

The film about the project tells the story vividly and poignantly. Many in the audience had seen the film, but hearing Hooper tell the story in person was even more dramatic and heartwarming.

"I think our children have learned so much about who they are and who they can become and the choices they can make," said Hooper, concluding that every individual human being can do something to change the world.

More than 200 women attended the 36th anniversary celebration held at Beth Shalom Synagogue on September 21. The chair was Roslyn Kimmel.

Kimmel reminisced about the beginning of the Women's Division campaign in 1972 and her own chairmanship in 1991 and introduced a video of past chairs, many of whom were in the audience and were asked to stand and be recognized for their contributions to the community.

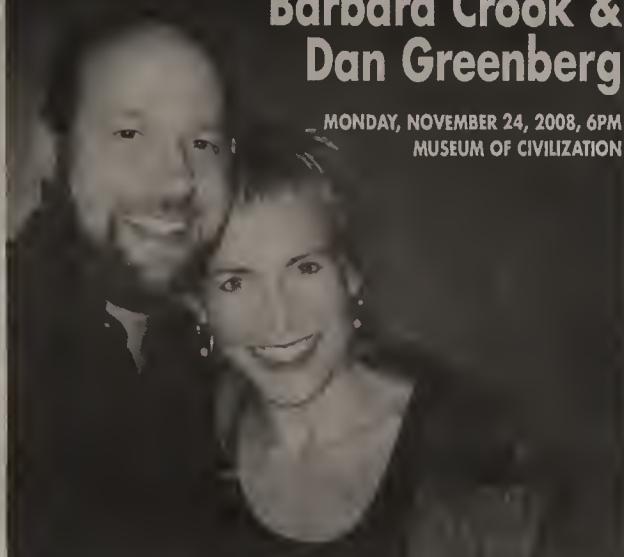
Dorothy Stern, Women's Division chair for 2009, said, "The personification of women's leadership is wholly exemplified by our 36 honourees, and by our keynote speaker, Linda Hooper. All have shown the power of women and the difference women can make. Each of these women, of their own volition, has stepped up to the plate when a need has been identified or, as in Linda's case, has identified the need herself."

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Making choices to make Jewish life compelling

Editor's note: JFO Chair Jonathan Freedman has arranged to share his column, on occasion, with the chairs or presidents of the community's major beneficiary agencies or committees so they can provide some insight into their operations.

"Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but how we react to what happens, not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst, a spark that creates extraordinary results."

– Unknown author

This is exactly how I feel about Choices, the Women's Campaign outreach event taking place on Thursday, October 30, 2008 at 6:00 pm at Agudath Israel Synagogue.

Choices is an elegant evening event, accessible to all women in the community, that delivers a powerful message about the choices our respected speaker has made in her life, sometimes with humour and sometimes through political discussion, but always with some thoughtful insight into the choices that we face every day.



Federation Report

Jennifer Kardash
Choices

My vision last year was to have an event in Ottawa that was not an obligation but an event that people looked forward to attending, and that created a sense of excitement as well as a sense of community. I wanted people to have fun while doing something wonderful at the same time.

Last year, Choices was a resounding success for the Federation. Our goal was to reach 150 women and we surpassed that with 261 attendees. We received 79 new gifts to the Federation, all due to the choices that were made by the women in this community.

This year, we are aiming higher and would like to reach between 300 and 350 women. Thanks to the women of our

community, our goal is definitely within reach.

This year, our guest speaker is Ruth Andrew Ellenson. She was the recipient of the 2005 National Jewish Book Award for her best selling anthology *The Modern Jewish Girls Guide to Gelt*, a collection of stories and essays about being a modern Jewish woman in a very assimilated world.

She is the daughter of Rabbi David Ellenson, president of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She works as a journalist and her writing appears in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *People Magazine* and several Jewish publications.

I truly believe that, in our world of unlimited choices, Jewish women should make it a top priority to make Jewish life compelling for the next generation and to encourage Jews from all backgrounds to make the right choices for themselves and for their children.

The cover charge for Choices is \$36 and a woman must make a minimum commitment of a \$136 gift to the

Women's Campaign 2009 of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. If she is already at that giving level, she is expected to increase her gift by a minimum of \$36 over last year's gift.

I want to remind people that, as our cost of living increases, so do the needs of the people who rely on our help. If we don't increase each year, then we are really not moving forward. An extra \$3 per month is the least, the very least, that we can do. If each one of us makes this choice, Ottawa will be an even more vibrant and welcoming, and more caring community. And that can only benefit all of us.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Choices on Thursday, October 30 at Agudath Israel. Cocktails are at 6:00 pm, dinner at 6:45.

For more information about this event, please contact Lindsay Rothenberg at 613-798-4696, ext. 270 or lrathenberg@jewishottawa.com. Tickets will not be available at the door.

Our future is in your hands. The choice is yours!

Perceptions of Rabbis Eliezer and Akiva are not contradictory



From the pulpit

Rabbi Steven Garten
Temple Israel

eration that trusted in God and was willing to leave Egypt for the unknown. This generation had trust in the Divine's protective nature and followed God's appointed leader as a child follows a parent. Their faith would be rewarded by the gift of the Promised Land.

I have chosen to do neither. I want to share with you some thoughts on Sukkot.

In the Talmud, the Israelites who wander through the wilderness desert are perceived in two distinct ways.

Rabbi Eliezer sees the Israelites as a gen-

Rabbi Akiva perceives the desert generation in a totally opposite manner. Rabbi Akiva understands the generation who left Egypt to be an unworthy people; one that constantly complained to God and desired to return to the "fleshpots of Egypt." Accordingly, this generation was condemned to die in the wilderness. Rabbi Akiva views the generation of the wilderness as destined to perish before they reach the Promised Land.

The tension between the two perceptions of the wilderness generation: that it was mutinous, and that it was meritorious, is not at all a contradiction. It is about being human.

In the very first chapter of *Genesis*, humans have asserted the power to express their own will in conflict with the designated will

of the Divine. It is no less true today. Although our tradition expects us to accept the Torah as Divine, we still accept Torah according to our own will.

Perhaps that is to be expected. If we were not human, expressing our own sentiments and having the liberty to rebel against the Divine will, then what satisfaction could there be in heaven when we eventually affirm the "yoke of heaven?"

So, this year, when you struggle with Jewish traditional acts, when you rebel against the traditional Jewish expectations, when you demand to be free of Divine limitations, think of Rabbi Eliezer or Rabbi Akiva and feel secure that you are in good company.

Chag Sameach.

Mailbag

Help Jewish students confront anti-Israel groups on campus

Having read about the problems of anti-Semitism facing Jewish students on university campuses for some time, I was not surprised to read Ambassador Alan Baker's hard-hitting article in the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin* (September 15).

He speaks of the need to equip and support our Jewish students to assertively and intelligently confront organized anti-Israel, anti-Semitic groups. His idea of sending informed members of Jewish organizations to support the students would be a worthwhile endeavour. These emissaries would help the students negotiate the minefield of intolerance with succinct and thought-provoking rebuttal. Accomplished, articulate lawyers in our community would no doubt elevate the

debate and would be an excellent group to approach to help our students. In addition, our community is blessed with talented retired persons who may be interested in lending their expertise to tomorrow's leaders.

These students are our future. We cannot let them down.

Sheila Baslaw

Letters welcome

Letters to the Editor are welcome if they are brief, signed, timely and of interest to our readership. The *Bulletin* reserves the right to refuse, edit or condense letters.

The *Mailbag* column will be published as space permits.

Send your letters to Michael Regenstreif, Ottawa Jewish Bulletin, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9; or e-mail him at mregenstreif@ottawajewishbulletin.com.

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Canada

Conservatives, Liberals do differ on Iranian threat

Three pages of this edition of the *Bulletin* are devoted to coverage of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Communications and Community Relations Committee's roundtable discussions with the three major federal political parties on three major issues of concern to the Jewish community.

We were aware that, because of the timing of the election call, the short campaign and the Sukkot election date, most members of the community will have voted before having an opportunity to read this edition of the *Bulletin*. That's why we announced last issue that the coverage would be posted at *ottawajewishbulletin.com* as soon as possible, and before voting opened in the advance polls. I hope you had a chance to read the coverage online before heading to the polls.

What Canada should do vis-à-vis the threat posed to the world, and in particular to Israel, by Iran's quest for nuclear weapon capability, especially in light of the incitement to genocide by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, was one of the major topics of discussion.

"I'll get back to the Ottawa candidates' responses to the issue in a moment, but how *meshugah* is Ahmadinejad? The logic of his nuclear quest and the threats implicit in his anti-Israel incitements suggest he'd use nuclear weapons to destroy Israel."



Acting Editor

Michael Regenstreif

Ahmadinejad wants to destroy Israel because he sees himself as the great champion of the Palestinians. The Iranian regime, as we know, sponsors Hamas and Hezbollah. The thing is, though, if God forbid, there were a nuclear attack on Israel and Ahmadinejad was successful in killing all the Jews in the Holy Land, it would also wipe out the Israeli Arabs, the Palestinians of Gaza and the West Bank, and those in the Hezbollah strongholds of Southern Lebanon.

That Ahmadinejad is some champion. He'll save the Palestinians from the Israelis by wiping out the Palestinians.

But Ahmadinejad's grandios talk of wiping Israel off the map is probably not the most likely danger posed by a nuclear Iran. Ahmadinejad knows that an Iranian nuclear attack against Israel would be met in kind by Western nuclear powers. The more likely danger is that the Iranian regime would supply something like a dirty little nuclear bomb in a suitcase to one or more of its terrorist clients.

That kind of danger is not limited to Israel. A suitcase attack could strike anywhere and dwarf the effects of 9/11.

The candidates from all three parties spoke of the need for sanctions against the Iranian regime.

Paul Dewar, the NDP Incumbent in Ottawa Centre, talked about how the sanctions needed to be real, not just "paper tiger" sanctions that target future investment in Iran while ignoring ongoing economic ties with the Iranian regime.

John Baird, the Conservative incumbent in Ottawa West-Nepean and a minister in the Harper government, talked about the need for tough sanctions but said he couldn't commit the government to a course of action.

David Pratt, the former Liberal cabinet minister running against Baird, talked about the need to prevent a nuclear confrontation in the Middle East.

A particularly interesting moment in the meeting with the Liberal candidates came when they were asked if there were policy differences between the Liberals and Conservatives on the Iran issue. Pratt explained that, while their differences were great on domestic issues, there was less room for any differences on such international issues.

I wondered, at that moment, if Pratt was aware of the work of Liberal MP

Irwin Cotler, his former cabinet colleague, on the Iran dossier; that is, his efforts to convince Western governments, including Canada's, to bring Ahmadinejad to international justice for his incitement to genocide. Cotler introduced a bill in Parliament last year calling for Ahmadinejad to be prosecuted in the International Criminal Court for inciting genocide. The bill was rejected by the Conservatives.

The day before the Federation meeting with the two Liberal candidates in Ottawa, Cotler spoke at the massive anti-Ahmadinejad rally in New York and called for the Iranian president to be brought to justice.

The day after the meeting, Liberal leader Stéphane Dion spoke to a Jewish audience in Winnipeg and attacked the Conservative government for rejecting Cotler's approach. And, in a campaign debate with a Conservative candidate in Montreal, Cotler attacked the Harper government asking, "Why are there four Canadian trade commissioners in Iran right now promoting trade with Iran?"

Clearly, there are policy differences between the Liberals and the Conservatives on the Iran issue. It would appear that the local Liberal candidates did not research that, or were not well briefed, before coming to a meeting where it was bound to be a major topic of discussion.

Sir John A. wouldn't have survived the blogosphere

Sir John A. MacDonald, the father of this country – along with his ally Sir Georges-Étienne Cartier – forged the great Confederation that united French and British North America and brought Canada into being in 1867.

He became its first prime minister, serving in that position for 19 years, winning six majority governments and becoming the dominant figure of Canadian politics in the early decades of the young country's existence. He earned his place in history as a nation-builder, through accomplishments such as opening up the West and the North, spearheading the creation of a coast-to-coast railway and founding the Mounties.

Tragically, his great achievements were overshadowed by an incident that took place after he had a bit too much to drink one night, when he wrote and published some nasty comments about a political rival on his personal blog.

Efforts by his party to erase the blog entry proved fruitless, as Google had cached his slanderous words, ensuring they would live online forever. Sir John A.'s reputation took a harsh blow.

And then when Internet video surfaced of the prime minister driving his horse and buggy under the influence of single-malt scotch, his political career was as good as done.

OK. Maybe history unfolded a little dif-



Alan Echenberg

ferently. But you never know. If the frequently drunk MacDonald hadn't died more than a century before politicians started keeping blogs, and posting videos to YouTube, things just might have happened as I described.

Indeed, during this fall's federal election campaign, a whole slew of potential nation-builders saw their political careers die premature deaths because of some non-erasable things they had posted to the Internet before they became candidates.

A couple of NDP candidates in B.C. stepped down after old video surfaced showing them using illegal drugs. One of those candidates had videotaped himself driving under the influence of hallucinogenics. In the YouTube era, it was not hard for other parties to track down and distribute that video.

A Conservative candidate in Toronto gave up his nomination after some old blog writings were discovered in which – among

other controversial statements – he criticized the passengers of a Greyhound bus in Manitoba for fleeing in terror from a grisly murder in which a fellow passenger was decapitated.

"This is where socialism has gotten us folks, a castrated effeminate population," the blog entry read. The candidate had tried to erase the evidence before the campaign, but what happens on the Internet stays on the Internet ... for opponents to exploit.

Liberal leader Stéphane Dion fired one of his party's Manitoba candidates after some old articles of hers surfaced on the Internet. In the articles, she entertained 9/11 conspiracy theories, including a claim that Israeli businesses had inside information about the pending attack on the World Trade Center.

Finally, Green Party leader Elizabeth May mishandled a controversy that arose when bloggers got hold of – and posted – audio from an old TV appearance of May's where she seemed to be saying she thought Canadians were "stupid."

In fact, May was not saying that at all. Her only fault was not speaking clearly enough. But instead of clarifying her remarks, the Green Party threatened to sue one of the bloggers who had posted the comment, showing that the party didn't quite grasp how the Internet worked.

This new political era probably started in

2006 with the infamous *macaca* moment, when Republican senator George Allen, running for re-election in Virginia, hurled a racially charged epithet at a Democratic Party worker who was videotaping him at a campaign rally.

Those were the early days of YouTube. (Was that only two years ago?) When he made the comment, Allen probably had no idea how quickly it would be disseminated all over the world. The incident derailed his campaign and probably lost him the election.

Since then, politics has exploded on the web and in the so-called blogosphere. But it's a different kind of politics than what you see on, say, the leaders' tours. It's wilder and more dangerous.

The lesson for aspiring politicians? If you ever plan to run for office, be very careful of what you blog, upload, or otherwise post.

As comedian Rick Mercer wrote: "In the past, politicians had to survive a party background check that most Canadians could pull off. Now the question will be, 'Can you survive a detailed Google search?' Who among us could do that?"

Not me. Not you. And not Sir John A. MacDonald either.

Alan Echenberg is *TVOntario's* Parliamentary bureau chief.

From Darkness to Light: Stermer family members to tell their story of survival underground

By Danielli Kubes

Light was scorching their eyes. They cried out. They stumbled blindly and one fainted.

Darkness was all these 38 Jews had known before emerging after two years of hiding in caves deep underneath the Ukrainian countryside.

Among them was the Stermer family, now of Montreal. Family members will be in Ottawa on Sunday, October 26, 7:00 pm, to share their remarkable story of grit and endurance at the opening event of the 2008 Holocaust Education Program at the Soloway JCC.

The story begins 69 years ago on Rosh Hashanah 1939. It was not a joyous, reflective

time in Korolowka, Poland, but the start of the nightmare that would lower the family into a starving existence deep underground.

Smartly sensing danger early, the Sterners applied and had been accepted for immigration to Canada. However, a mere week before they were set to leave in September 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland.

Poland was divided and the Soviet Union and Germany occupied the country. The Nazis removed the Soviets in the summer 1941.

The Nazi repression of Polish Jewry soon began. First was the demand to don white armbands with a blue Star of David. This soon progressed to groups of Jews being ex-ecuted in cemeteries or packed into cattle cars for transport to the death camps where murderous gas awaited them.

"Those who were as yet spared found it difficult at first to believe that human beings – and cultured Germans at that – could really perpetrate such horrors," the matriarch of the family, Esther Stermer, wrote in her memoirs.

Afraid of atrocious Nazi activities, the Sterners built bunkers beneath their farm. It was a prelude to the caves they would soon have to move into.

The Sterners purchased badges that allowed three men in the family to travel with a horse and wagon to collect scrap metal. The work kept them nourished as they were able to trade with the local peasants for food. Later on, it became their lifeline as the means through which they gathered supplies in the caves.

As darkness washed over 1942, the Sterners and 30 other Jews began their new existence alongside bats and foxes in a cave previously popular with tourists.

Their steely determination was guided by the goal to survive. They were willing to do anything to stay alive. "Anything rather than go like sheep to slaughter," Esther wrote.

Still, it was not enough, and in the spring the Gestapo arrived.



Stermer family members with family portrait taken before the Second World War.

All were trembling in fear, except for Esther, who demanded that everyone else hide under their beds while she alone faced the Germans.

She boldly addressed them: "Very well, so you have found us ... Look at how we live here, like rats. All we want is to live, to survive the war years. Leave us here." She recalls in her writing.

Somehow, the Sterners managed to return to their bunkers under their barn. It wasn't safe in the town though. The Nazis were everywhere.

Thanks to the advice of a friendly forester, they ex-

plored a hole on a priest's ravine and found a giant cavern, where the children would be able to shout as loud as they wanted and where lice could not multiply.

Thirty-eight Jews descended into the cavern on May 5, 1943, the night after the announcement that every Jew had to leave or had to be shot.

They made unleavened bread, but barely had enough to keep from starvation.

After 344 days underground came the news they'd been longing for. A message in a bottle, dropped into the mouth of the cave by the friendly forester, gave them

the joyous news that the Nazis were gone.

Preparing their eyes for daylight, the family set out to leave the cave and their suffering behind.

Siblings Saul and Sam Stermer and Yetta Stermer Katz, and their niece Sima, will tell the story of the family's survival underground during the Holocaust at the launch event of the 2008 Holocaust Education Program on Sunday, October 26, 7:00 pm at the Soloway JCC.

Admission is free but seating is limited. Call 613-798-4696, ext. 253 to reserve tickets.

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Friday, November 7	Kablat Shabbat Service & Dinner
Monday, November 17	Book Club
Sunday, November 23	Street Smarts Program/Reptiles Rock

Watch for more upcoming events. Everyone is Welcome!

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Brian Pearl
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Negev Dinner honourees

**Barbara Crook and
Dan Greenberg choose
Galilee Reservoir
as this year's project
to face the drought in Israel**

This month, I am very happy to turn over the column to one of our Honourees, Dan Greenberg.

Dan and Barbara have chosen a very important project in Israel as the focus for this year's Negev Dinner fundraising campaign, and the following is why, in Dan's own words, they feel this project is so important.

In Canada, we are blessed with so much water, yet Israel is in the midst of the worst drought in its 60-year history.

Water is a highly prized resource in the Middle East and is crucial to the survival of the populations of Israel and its respective neighbours. When you go to the Holy Land, you learn how important water is to its citizens and residents. In fact, water is part of Israel's peace treaty with Jordan and JNF shares its vast scientific knowledge in this area with them.

Drought happens in the Middle East, but, this drought is worse than ever and is of great concern to everyone in Israel.

As part of the Negev Dinner, we Honourees get to choose the JNF project we wish to support.

Barbara and I have selected the Mishmar Ha-Yarden Recycled Water Reservoir in the Galilee, the upper northeast corner of the country. The idea of this reservoir is to take wastewater and recycle it for purposes such as irrigation. This frees up more than 150,000 cubic metres of water for human consumption.

Barbara was in Israel a few weeks ago and spent a day looking at JNF reservoirs in the north of Israel and she also told me that the drought was on everyone's mind and lips.

Barbara and I hope that, with your support, we can make a bit of a difference for the better with respect to Israel and its precious water. Help us to Quench the Thirst of a Nation! Thanks again!

Please join us on November 24 for the Negev Dinner honouring Dan and Barbara, and when a JNF canvasser calls, please also consider making a donation for this very worthy project.

Golden Book inscription

Eliane Morgan Shinder by her loving grandparents Zelaine and Sol Shinder and Frankie and Edward Adelson.

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Ottawa students stand against Ahmadinejad at United Nations

They could have been in class that day. Instead, 28 university students from Ottawa took to the streets of New York City on September 22, joining more than 130 Canadian students and thousands of other protesters in the largest demonstration ever held against Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Iranian president.

Wearing red T-shirts saying, "Stop Promoting Genocide," students from universities in Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto and Montreal carried a huge Israeli flag as they made their way to the front of the rally in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, across from where Ahmadinejad was to address the United Nations (UN) General Assembly the next day.

"Being there outside the UN really made you feel like you are a part of history," said Carleton University student Ariella Kimmelman, who planned the trip for Hillel Ottawa in connection with the Canadian Federation for Jewish Students and Students Helping Others Understand Tolerance.

"There was so much energy in the air," Kimmelman said. "When you arrived at the rally, you could just feel that everyone felt united by a cause, and that everyone felt passionate about being there."

Protesters chanted "Stop Iran Now!" and brandished posters warning against the threat Ahmadinejad's regime poses to Israel and the entire world with his government's nuclear weapons program and anti-Israel statements.

The day before the rally, the students had the chance to meet each other and spend a free Sunday touring the big city.

Micah Halpern, an American political analyst, provided them with an update on the current political situation in Iran. They were also given tips on messaging or dealing with questions, and used poster board and markers to make their own signs for the protest.

The following morning at breakfast, David Harris, president of the American Jewish Committee, commended the students for giving up a school day and making the long trip. He asked them to look ahead 10 years and envision



Campus Life

Liana Shlien

how they wanted the world to look.

Chelsea Sauvé, president of Hillel Ottawa for Carleton, was very impressed with Harris's speech.

"He instilled the energy to go forth and protest with passion," she said.

Having never participated in a political rally before, Sauvé was surprised how comfortable she felt in the crowd.

Before the protest, Sauvé had the chance to meet with Alain Bowman, a member of Canada's Permanent Mission to the United Nations. He explained how Canada has taken a fundamental role in facilitating UN resolutions against Iran by highlighting the country's human rights abuses.

Though previously scheduled-and-cancelled keynote speakers Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin did not address the crowd, Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, former Israeli cabinet minister Natan Sharansky and former Canadian justice minister Irwin Cotler all gave powerful speeches.

Both Kimmelman and Sauvé noted that the only negative feelings in the crowd were directed to members of Neturei Karta, a group of anti-Zionist Haredi Jews, who mounted a counter-demonstration, holding signs with Xs drawn through the Israeli flag.

Now back on campus after a memorable trip, Sauvé sums up her new experience with student activism.

"It was very telling as to what degree people will go to say 'no,' now and not in retrospect."

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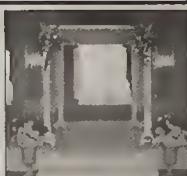
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Ruth Andrew Ellenson to speak on Jewish girl's guilt at Choices event

By Diane Koven

The word 'guilt' has almost become a Jewish cliché. It even sounds like it should be preceded by the word 'Jewish.'

Ruth Andrew Ellenson, an award-winning American journalist, is a 30-something Jewish woman with a unique twist on the word and will be the featured speaker at the Choices event presented by the Women's Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa on October 30.

"Guilt is not necessarily a negative emotion," she says. "It shows that you care about something; that you have thought deeply about something."

Ellenson's bestselling anthology, *The Modern Jewish Girl's Guide to Guilt*, is a collection of essays by some of today's top Jewish women writers exploring their own feelings and experiences with Jewish guilt. The title is cute but the stories are meant to be thought provoking.

"It is a book about exploring identity," says Ellenson. "You can be deep and funny at the same time."

Ellenson's own story illustrates her overall theme. Her background is, she says, unusual. "My father and step-mother are both rabbis, and my mother is a convert to Judaism from a very old WASP family in the U.S. My parents married and made aliyah and I was born in Jerusalem."

Though they returned to the United States, Ellenson grew up in a very Jewish environment



Ruth Andrew Ellenson, editor of *The Modern Jewish Girl's Guide to Guilt*, is featured speaker at the Choices event October 30.

with a strong Jewish identity.

"But every summer, I went to visit my non-Jewish grandmother in Virginia and she proudly

took me to church to show me off to her friends. With my expensive Jewish education, I somehow knew that this was inappropriate and that I shouldn't be there.

"But I was torn by the dilemma. Which part of me wins? The part of me that wants to be a good Jew or the part of me that wants to be a good granddaughter? There is no answer."

This is but one of the many intriguing causes of Jewish guilt explored in Ellenson's collection. Others, such as worrying about not worrying enough; dealing with Christmas trees in an interfaith home; being outed as a lesbian at your mother's Yiddish club; or hearing a grandmother's biological clock tick, are bound to strike a chord with many readers.

Ellenson was thrilled to receive the National Jewish Book Award in 2006 for the anthology, published in hardcover in 2005 and in paperback in 2006. She is a very busy journalist whose writing appears regularly in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and *People Magazine* and she has travelled internationally to speak about the complexities and joys of Jewish identity for women of all ages.

Choices is an event for women and takes place Thursday, October 30, 6:00 pm at Agudath Israel Synagogue. For information, contact Lindsay Rothenberg at 613-798-4696, ext. 270 or lrrothenberg@jewishottawa.com.

Where is the Tel Aviv Trophy?



The Ottawa Jewish Archives is searching for this Tel Aviv Trophy. It was provided in 1937 by Lillian Freiman for an annual tennis award.

The Tel Aviv Tennis Club began in 1935 when Jewish tennis enthusiasts had no courts at their disposal. Throughout the 1940s the Tel Aviv Tennis Club was both a popular tennis and social club.

Contact the Ottawa Jewish Archives at 613-798-4696, ext. 260 if you have any information about the trophy or know where it might now be.

(Photo: Ottawa Jewish Archives)

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October 13, 2008

Open letter to family and friends of Bar and Bat Mitzvah teens,

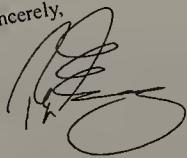
Before the Bar or Bat Mitzvah, there is something you should know...

As you celebrate the important family milestone of a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, it is important to help instill the Jewish value of Tzedakah. The Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation (OJCF) offers an engaging solution. By giving teens the opportunity to be philanthropists, we place into their hands the most valuable Bar or Bat Mitzvah gift we can give them: we teach them how to give.

The B'nai Mitzvah Club allows teens, or their family and friends, to establish an endowment fund in their name in collaboration with the Saul and Edna Goldfarb B'nai Mitzvah Fund and the OJCF. The Goldfarb Fund will match the Bar or Bat Mitzvah teenager's contribution (up to \$1000) and they get to decide which Jewish agencies are allocated the income from their fund.*

You can make a difference by signing up today for as little as \$250 (with a matching donation of \$250 from the Goldfarb Fund). Starting a B'nai Mitzvah Fund is easy and rewarding. For more information or to start up a fund in honour of a recent or upcoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah, please contact Francine Paulin at 613-798-4696 ext. 252.

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* In order to receive the matching contribution, allocation of the fund must be made to Jewish causes. One may choose to open a B'nai Mitzvah fund without the matching contribution, in which case, income from that fund may be allocated to any registered charity in Canada.



(Stermer Family)

Chapters

Chapters Pinecrest 2735 Iris St. will feature a selection of Holocaust books from October 22 to November 22, 2008.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21 TO SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Play: ... and stockings for the ladies
Canadian War Museum, Barney Danson Theatre 1 Vimy Place, (819) 776-8600

For times, dates and cost of public and student performances: <http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/exhibitions/egenisme/deadlymedicine04e.html>

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26 @ 7 PM LAUNCH EVENT
Survivor Talk: From Darkness to Light: A Harrowing Story of the Stermer Family's Survival
Soloway JCC, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private

Free admission. To reserve seats contact: (613) 798-4696, ext. 253 ikrug@jewishottawa.com

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28 @ 7 PM
Book Launch: *Simon's Quest* (as told by author's son – Irwin Schweitzer)
Chapters, Pinecrest, 2735 Iris St., (613) 596-3003

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 @ 7 PM
Book Reading/Talk - Dr. Erwin Koranyi, *Dreams and Tears: Chronicle of a Life*
Centrepointe Library, 101 Centrepointe Drive (613) 580-2710

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29 @ 7:30 PM
A Religious Panel: *Torat Hayyim - Torah of Life, Living Jewish Values During the Shoah* - Discussion with Rabbi Arnold Fine, Rabbi Charles Popky and Rabbi Howard Finkelstein Chapel, Agudath Israel Congregation 1400 Coldrey Avenue, (613) 728-3501

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30 @ 7 PM
Lecture by Irving Abella: *The Holocaust - Resistance in Canada*
University of Ottawa, Fauteux Hall, Room 133 57 Louis Pasteur

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30 @ 7 PM
Lecture with Father Patrick Desbois - *Holocaust By Bullets*
Canadian War Museum, Barney Danson Theatre 1 Vimy Place, (819) 776-8600

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION PROGRAM 2008

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 23

A program of the Shoah (Holocaust) Committee of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 @ 3:00 to 5:00 PM
Moving Sights and Sounds: 2008 Adult March of the Living with photos by Peter Waisser and discussion with students who went on the 2008 March of the Living
Soloway JCC, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 @ 7 PM
Esti Mayer, Artist: Discussion of her work the *Holocaust Suite*
Beth Shalom Congregation, 151 Chapel St.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 @ 4:00 TO 5:30 PM
Survivor Talk: Survival and Passive Resistance in Theresienstadt with Vera Schiff
University of Ottawa, Simard Bldg. Room 422 60 University

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4 @ 7 PM
Book Reading/Talk: *A Long Labour: A Dutch Woman's Holocaust Memoir* by Elly Bollegraaf (daughter of author)
Main Ottawa Public Library, 120 Metcalfe (613)-580-2945

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5 & THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6
Author Readings and Multi-media Presentation for Grades 7 and 8
Debbie Spring: *The Righteous Smuggler*

TIMES AND LOCATIONS:
Wednesday, November 5 @ 10:30 AM
Cumberland Branch Library, 1599 Tenth Line (613) 580-2954

Wednesday, November 5 @ 1:30 PM
Alta Vista Branch, 2516 Alta Vista Dr. (613) 737-2837

Wednesday, November 5 @ 7 to 8:30 PM - Open to Public
The Righteous Smuggler Book Signing by Debbie Spring and Wim Geerts, Ambassador of the Netherlands
Chapters Pinecrest, 2735 Ins ST. (613) 596-3003

Thursday, November 6 @ 10:30 AM
Wim Geerts, Ambassador of the Netherlands, will join in the discussion with Debbie Spring and will answer questions from a Dutch perspective.

Nepean Centrepointe Branch
101 Centrepointe Dr. (613) 580-2710

For additional information Anna Rijk, Netherlands Embassy (613) 237-5031 ext. 231

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 @ 4:00 to 5:30 PM
Survivor Dr. Truda Rosenberg will read from her memoir.
Paterson #201, Carleton University

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 @ 6:30 PM
Film Documentary: *Captain Laszlo Ocskay: The Forgotten Hero*
One of the filmmakers will be present
Main Ottawa Public Library
120 Metcalfe St. (613) 580-2945
Light refreshments will be served.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6 @ 7 PM
Panel of Authors: Hannah Shani, Mina Cohn
Living to Tell: Different Experiences of Holocaust Survival
Ottawa Public Library, Hazeldean Branch
50 Castlefrank Rd.
Registration requested call: (613) 836-1900

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 @ 6 PM
Hillel Ottawa - Jewish Campus Life Shabbat Dinner
Survivors, university students and professors will share a Shabbat dinner.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9 @ 6:30 PM
70th Anniversary Commemoration of Kristallnacht
Keynote Speaker - The Honourable David Kilgour
Parliament Hill, Room 200, West Wing

Free transportation from the Soloway JCC. Bus will depart @ 6 pm sharp. To reserve bus seating contact: (613) 798-4696, ext. 253 by November 1.

Free transportation also available from Machziket Hadas Congregation. Please call (613) 521-9700.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 @ 6:30 PM
Survivor Talk and launch of Documentary with Eva Olsson
Sir Robert Borden High School, 131 Greenbank Rd.
Tickets \$5 adults and \$2 students. Tickets sold at door.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23 @ 2 PM
Documentary: *Perla: The Last of the Seven Dwarfs*
Soloway JCC, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private

*Unless otherwise indicated, all programs are free of charge.

For more detailed schedule visit www.jewishottawa.com
or call (613) 798-4696, ext. 253



Volunteer spotlight

Yiddish theatre thriving due to dedicated volunteer

By Benita Siemiatycki

The road to stardom is typically from Ottawa to New York. But the fortunes of Shirley Steinberg took no turn for the worse when she arrived in Ottawa in 1970. Since then, Shirley has starred on many stages, and expanded her exceptional talents to include directing and scriptwriting.

Born and raised in Brooklyn to parents who were accomplished singers, Shirley started music lessons at the age of five. Singing and acting were always important aspects of her life. She eventually went on to perform in operas and theatre, and was given her own radio program in New York featuring Israeli music.

Growing up, Shirley attended Jewish schools and then studied languages and psychology in university. She developed an ear for Yiddish by hearing her parents speak it at home. That exposure to Yiddish launched a lifelong love of the language.

"I just felt it was such a beautiful, colourful, expressive language. And it is so much a part of our history," she explains.

In 1960, Shirley married Ottawa native Victor Steinberg and the couple moved to Rochester, New York. In the 10 years they lived there, Shirley continued performing



From writing until performance date, Shirley Steinberg devotes a year to preparing Die Folkshpieler's annual show. (OJB photo: Benita Siemiatycki)

ing as a volunteer for community theatre and choral groups. She also worked as a nursery school teacher, always infusing music into her activities. Five children later, in 1970, the family moved to Ottawa where Victor secured a job with the National Research Council as a chemist. Since then, Shirley has been a voluntary driving force behind a vibrant Jewish performing arts renaissance in Ottawa.

She donated her time to perform for various Jewish events. In 1975, when her

children were older, Shirley joined a choral group called the Israella Singers. Two years later, she became its director and the group grew from six to 16 singers. The repertoire was mainly Hebrew, but also included Yiddish, Ladino, English, and liturgical music. For 25 years, Shirley was the volunteer director and led the Israella Singers to national and international fame.

Around 1995, the Jewish Community Centre wanted to launch a Yiddish program. With her broad interest in

Yiddish, Shirley stepped in to run *Mama Loshen*, an informal gathering of people interested in improv, humour, skits, music and drama. That small group of individuals grew into *Gelechter un Gesang* (laughter and song) which, in 2002, evolved into *Die Folkshpieler*, a more formal drama group focusing on Yiddish light theatre.

With the formation of *Die Folkshpieler*, not only did Shirley direct and cast the parts, but she fell into the role of scriptwriter. She took that on with reluctance, skeptical that she could write *anything* in Yiddish, much less an entire play.

For seven years and counting, Shirley has started working on the script for each show in the summer, the beginning of a process that culminates with the community performance the following June.

When asked how she motivates herself to work for a year preparing for each performance, she explains, "There's such enthusiasm in the crew that it propels you."

Maxine Miska, interim president and chief operating officer of the Soloway JCC, says, "Shirley is a treasure to our community. She focuses her immense creativity and energy on nurturing the liveliness of the Yiddish language in Ottawa. While peo-

ple write about the demise of *Mama Loshen*, Shirley's plays attract larger and larger audiences each year. We are the fortunate recipients of her rare gifts."

Now entering its seventh season, *Die Folkshpieler*'s popularity is growing. Last year, about 175 people attended the performance. Shirley sees a surge in interest among young people to keep Yiddish alive. She is hopeful that with students studying Yiddish at Ottawa Modern Jewish School (OMJS), she will soon have child performers in her cast.

"I'm looking forward to a new year, God willing, with the *Folkshpieler*. We now have a cast of 22 people."

Shirley has also led a music program at OMJS and international music and the-

atre programs for Active Jewish Adults (AJA 50+). Her current project for AJA 50+ is the Canaries, an informal singing group meeting Monday afternoons, featuring old and new songs in English, French, Yiddish, Hebrew and Ladino.

Sadly, Shirley's husband Victor passed away a year ago. Two of their children became graphic designers, one is an industrial designer, and two are psychotherapists. All live outside Ottawa and Shirley is the proud grandmother of eight grandchildren.

Benita Siemiatycki of the Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre profiles community volunteers in the Bulletin. Many organizations are in desperate need of volunteers. Call the InfoCentre at 613-798-4644 for information.

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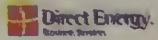
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JFS begins new outreach program to Russian Jewish community

By Jeremy Miller
Jewish Family Services

This time of year marks the beginning of many new things, the New Year, the beginning of school and, for Jewish Family Services, the beginning of the new Russian outreach initiative.

The integration of Jews from the former Soviet Union has largely been seen as a failure in North America.

Recognizing this problem, Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS)-funded agencies across Canada, working with Mila Voihanski of JIAS Canada, have devised a program to outreach and support leadership training for immigrants who have lived in Canada for more than 10 years.

Earlier this year, Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Ottawa was selected as one of three agencies in North America to pilot a project to engage the Jewish Russian immigrant population and to connect them with the broader Jewish community. If successful, the project will be extended to other North American communities. JFS has hired Nahum Vais to



Nahum Vais is heading up a JFS leadership training program for Russian Jews in Ottawa.

(Photo: Colleen Gray)

co-ordinate and run the program. Originally from Kharkov, Ukraine, Vais has been in Ottawa for more than eight years and recognizes the importance of creating stronger ties between the Russian immigrant community and Ottawa's Jewish community.

"For too long, the communities have lived independently of each other. By try-

ing to bring the communities together, it will only strengthen the entire Jewish community," Vais said.

"There are an estimated 2,000 Russian Jewish immigrants living in the Ottawa area with only a small percentage connecting with the Jewish community. Slowly, and surely, their and their children's Jewish identities are being lost."

The plan that Vais puts forth is the foundation of the engagement program.

"I am hoping to have 15 Russians who have successfully settled in Canada and will be comfortable taking on leadership roles in bringing the communities together," he said.

"We are hoping the course will provide an opportunity for the participants to learn the basics of Judaism, the general structure of the Jewish community and the differences between each of the agencies and what they do. It is our goal that each participant will find an agency that they would like to get involved with and become a volunteer for them."

This initiative is being funded by the Russian-based Genesis Philanthropy Group, the Wexner Foundation and JFS. Together, they are hoping to create an inclusive Jewish community.

The first training session is scheduled for January. In the meantime, Vais is working hard to identify possible participants and finalize the curriculum.

Emunah has two exciting events in November

By Leah Cohen

Emunah Women of Ottawa

The history of the Jews in China, the overlapping saga of two ancient peoples, will be the subject of talk given by Su Zhe, first secretary of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Canada, at the annual membership drive of Emunah Women of Ottawa on Sunday, November 2.

While some theorize that the earliest Chinese Jews to be descendants of the lost tribe of Menashe, others believe the community dates back to the eighth century when Jewish merchants from Persia were travelling along the Silk Road to China. Many eventually settled in Kaifeng where they built the Purity and Truth Synagogue.

In modern times, the free port of Shanghai served as a place of refuge for Jews after the Russian Revolution of 1917 and for those fleeing Nazi oppression during the 1930s and 1940s. The Shanghai Jewish community then numbered about 25,000.

She became curious about things Jewish after serving as an official translator for Ezer Weizman, then-president of Is-

rael, during his visit to China in 1999. In Ottawa, Su and his wife have shared traditional Shabbat meals with Jewish friends.

He has held a number of prominent positions in the Chinese foreign service, including a term as consul for science and technology at the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Toronto. A man of many talents, Su has a master's degree in applied chemistry from Beijing Institute of Technology.

Emunah is a not-for-profit organization based on the ideals of Torah and Zionism and was one of several organizations that received the Israel Prize in 2008 in recognition of its special contribution to Israeli society, the State of Israel and status of women issues over a period of many years.

The annual membership drive event takes place Sunday, November 2, 6:00 pm, at the home of Barbara Crook. Pareve supper and desserts will be served.

For information or tickets, call Rivka Kraus at 613-241-5613 or Jennie Claman at 613-729-7387, or e-mail Leah Cohen at leahlel@yahoo.ca by

Wednesday October 31. Both men and women are welcome to attend.

Emunah has another event, on Tuesday, November 18, 7:30 pm, at the home of Noga Reiss, featuring Hava Levine, director of public relations at Neve Michael Children's Village in Pardes Chanah, Israel.

Neve Michael provides a safe haven for children at risk whose biological parents can no longer care for them. The village provides nourishment, education, therapy and a warm family environment to youngsters who have often arrived under traumatic circumstances.

Levine is a charismatic speaker whose dedicated efforts on behalf of the children stem from her heart and soul. Her insight and direct experience with children at risk is an illumination to all. Information on Neve Michael Children's Village is available at www.nevemichael.com.

Admission is free and light refreshments will be served. This event is for women only. Contact Rivka Kraus, Jennie Claman or Leah Cohen for information.

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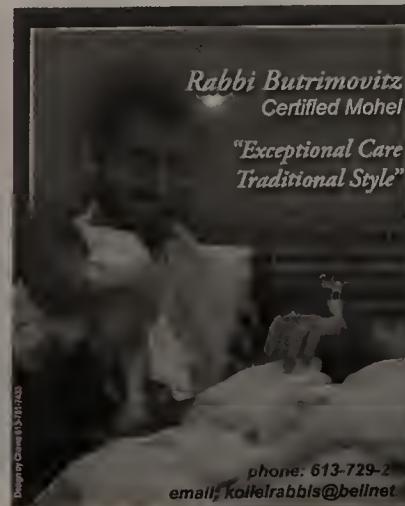
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Humane Society visits Hillel Lodge

By Michael Regenstreif

Once a month, a dedicated crew of volunteers from the Ottawa Humane Society brings some gentle, friendly dogs and, occasionally, a cat, to visit with the residents of Hillel Lodge as part of the Humane Society's Brightening Lives program, which visits many facilities and institutions throughout the city.

The *Bulletin* tagged along on the September visit and saw how much the residents enjoyed the opportunity to spend some time with three dogs, one cat and their handlers.

Many reminisced with the volunteers about pets they had owned over the years.

Participating in the September visit were Sugar, a black long-haired Chihuahua, with volunteer Janette Hamilton-Silcoff; Junebug, a Pug, with volunteer Carolyn Baeta; Brie, a Bearded Collie mix, with Humane Society co-ordinator Krishna Mercer; and Samuel the cat, with volunteer Jacqueline O'Callaghan.

It was obvious how much the pets and the Humane Society volunteers also enjoyed their visits with the Hillel Lodge residents.

The Ottawa Humane Society has embarked on a building campaign.

For information, contact Anna Silverman at 613-725-3166, ext. 279 or annas@ottawahumane.ca.



Brie and Ottawa Humane Society co-ordinator Krishna Mercer visit Hillel Lodge resident Joseph Ginsberg. (OJB photos: Michael Regenstreif)



Sugar visits Elisabeth Milk in her room.



Peter Waisberg holds Sugar while Brie, Junebug and Samuel look on.



Ida Elzer sings a song for Sugar (in her lap), Brie and volunteer Janette Hamilton-Silcoff.



Betty Rosenberg holds Junebug and chats with volunteer Carolyn Baeta.

My summer with Shakespeare in Jerusalem

By Ilana Hadad

Grade 12

Sir Robert Borden

High School

Third Year

Torah High Ottawa

The name, 'Shakespeare,' does not usually stimulate excitement in a teenager's mind. So I really didn't know what to expect when I decided to participate in NCSY's *Shakespeare in Jerusalem* this summer.

I knew the purpose of the trip was to provide Jewish teenagers with meaningful Jewish experiences while touring Israel for three-and-a-half weeks at the same time as receiving a high school English credit. What I didn't know was that I was in for the summer of my life.

The group was about 30 kids from Ottawa, Toronto and Hamilton. I went without knowing any of them and came back with 30 new best friends.

And NCSY really knows how to pick its staff. I have never met a group of people as spirited as our five advisers. Their out-going and energetic personalities quickly spread to every member of the group. Other NCSY

groups knew us as the loudest and most spirited group in Israel. Our two head-staffs, Marni and Oren Dishy, were the most caring and kind-hearted people we could have asked for. They were always willing to do anything to enhance our experience. I have been fortunate enough to have visited Israel many times in the past, but I've never seen Israel like I did this summer. Our itinerary was packed with exciting programs and activities.

I'd be lying if I said it was no work and all play. You can't get a high school English credit for nothing. We had quite a few half-day classes, a couple full-day classes and we even had homework to do some nights.

NCSY has an amazing ability to create meaningful Jewish experiences. The staff was always eager to answer questions and the Jewish programming was creative and fun. We all had different upbringings, came from different types of schools and yet everyone was able to connect or reconnect with his or her Jewish identity.

Shakespeare in Jerusalem made the summer of 2008



Ontario teens and their advisers on tour in Israel during NCSY's *Shakespeare in Jerusalem* program.

my best one yet. I highly recommend it to anyone who is thinking about plans for next summer.

For information about *Shakespeare in Jerusalem* for the summer of 2009, contact Gaby Scarowsky at 613-262-6283 or gaby@ntsy.ca.



Hillel Lodge Friendship Club celebrates Harry Toronto's 105th birthday

The Hillel Lodge Friendship Club is a group of Hillel Academy students, from Kindergarten to Grade 4, which sings monthly for the residents of Hillel Lodge. Their August concert was in honour of Harry Toronto, who celebrated his 105th birthday on August 14. Pictured (left to right): Dahlia Lesh, Noa Popky, Noah Reichstein, Maya Lesh, Harry Toronto, Kayla Reichstein, Jessica Huniu, Kayla Sabloff and Tara Sabloff.



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- A disabled woman downtown needs help with paperwork approximately 2-3 times per month for 1-2 hours.
- An elderly gentleman in Riverside South needs transportation to and from the General Hospital to visit his wife.
- A woman downtown needs help taking a few boxes to the storage locker in her building and with organizing it a little.
- A woman who needs to participate in a therapeutic swimming program at Jack Purcell needs a ride to and from her home in Alta Vista.
- An elderly woman in the Byward Market area needs a friendly visitor to share coffee visits, trips to museums, art galleries, etc.
- An elderly lady who likes crafts & sewing would love to meet someone with similar interests to help her get out of the house once in a while.
- A gentleman who enjoys long walks and Torah study could use an occasional companion. Campus area.
- An enterprising lady who uses a scooter is looking for someone to accompany her to Carlingwood shopping centre (walking distance).
- Transportation:** Drivers are needed to transport seniors to and from medical appointments, social opportunities, grocery shopping, and the like.
- Kosher Meals on Wheels:** Drivers who can deliver on short notice are always at a premium. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Friendly Visiting:** Requests come in constantly from family members needing a visitor for a shut-in. Weekly, bi-weekly or ad-hoc opportunities. Chat over coffee, take in a show, go bowling ...
- Tekhahom:** We are currently seeking volunteers to place weekday morning reassurance calls to isolated seniors. Each call takes approximately 2-3 minutes and can be done from your home, office or cell phone.
- Presenters:** JFS hosts several monthly seniors' luncheon programs. We are looking for specialists, artists, musicians, and others who can present for about 45 minutes in exchange for a hot lunch in great company.
- Share Your Expertise:** We receive requests for things like filling out forms, putting up a Sukkah, changing dishes for Passover, and the like. If you have an expertise to share with someone in need, please let us know.
- Miriam's Well:** This distribution program needs helpers to pack and hand out fresh fruits and vegetables on the first Monday of every month.

Please note: Mileage incurred by volunteers is always reimbursed by JFS.

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- Fun on Fridays? Oneg Shabbat every week at 10:30 am and bingo at 2:00 pm – come join us.
- Want cashier experience in a friendly atmosphere? Come to Hillel Lodge at lunch (11:45 am to 1:30 pm Monday to Friday).
- Culture maven? Accompany our residents to museums, concerts and plays (Wednesday and Thursday afternoons).
- Tuesday special: Enjoy our special events every week at 2:15 pm.
- Shopping experts? Have fun while accompanying residents to shopping at a mall (Monday mornings).

To inquire further, please call 613-728-3900 ext. 191 or email judithw@hillel-ltc.com

Students welcome (please note: children under the age of 14 require adult accompaniment)

Kachol v'Lavan v'Yarok: Greening our community

Many of you have likely noticed the beautiful billboards dotting the Ottawa Jewish Community Campus depicting smiling faces accompanied by the tag line, "I want a Jewish Future."

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa's Annual Campaign manages to successfully engender a spirit of collective action by sending the message that if we want to make use of the many Jewish agencies dotting our local landscape (and even enjoy the knowledge that they exist), not to mention wanting Israel to thrive financially, we should each make an effort to contribute. The Federation *Choices* event for women – now held annually in the fall – powerfully reinforces this message through savvy word-of-mouth marketing and high-production-value videos shown of North American women of various ages making the case for supporting Federation campaigns.

Yet, as a Jewish friend remarked dryly to me about the Annual Campaign, "How can we expect a future for our children, if we do not attempt to ensure that they will have a healthy planet on which to live?"

I wonder when and how we can encourage this spirit of communal giving, when the incentive is almost equally there to *free-ride* for the goal of protecting the Earth.

Certainly, the ethical and material importance of devoting attention to environmental sustainability is obvious to most. But, as social scientists have long observed, the incentive to *free-ride* is enormous. That is, how do we encourage individuals to contribute the necessary short-term costs to achieve a collective, long-term gain that everyone would basically enjoy anyway – or at least believe that they would – through the efforts of others?

Socially-minded Jewish activists have begun to work towards overcoming this collective action problem. Groups such as the Teva Learning Center, Hazon and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life take the Judaic concepts of *Tikkun Olam* (repair of the world) and *Tuv Ha'aretz* (for the good of the land) to engage in environmental advocacy and activism from a Jewish perspective. Montreal's Federation CJA has recently made major strides towards greening their premises, with the aim of extending eco-friendly practices to their entire Jewish community campus.

What are some practices that we could try to introduce and improve in our own community?

We could attempt to eliminate, or at least reduce, the use of Styrofoam at our synagogues, schools and daycares, as well as at Jewish communal events. If disposable dishes are necessary, there are now more ecologically friendly products on the market, including biodegradable plates and utensils. Indeed, Moishe's Grill, the new restaurant at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC), has introduced more eco-friendly dishes.

Agency offices could ensure that their supplies are as green as possible (with the help of companies such as Frogfile) and that they are moving toward more electronic correspondence.



Values, Ethics, Community

Mira Sucharov

responce.

Recycling should be made mandatory.

Agency buildings could begin to use biodegradable cleaning supplies (there are many on the market, including those from Seventh Generation), and should consider switching to green energy, an idea which the SJCC has recently considered. Kosher food-service facilities could start composting, and indeed the SJCC's Ganon Preschool now has a worm composting program for food and paper scraps – with the added bonus of teaching the children about botany and biology. Perhaps a school bus service could be introduced for students attending Hillel Academy, at least for students from neighbourhoods with a high student-body concentration.

At the more participatory level, we could consider inaugurating an annual community-wide Tu B'Shvat seder where we attempt to spiritually connect with the natural world through the once-dormant but increasingly practiced ritual. An accompanying Tu B'Shvat colloquium could help us take stock of our communal greening efforts and point to areas where we can strive to do more.

There is a powerful spiritual component to being aware of nature and our evolving relationship to it, something I noticed when I spent a week on Hornby Island, B.C. this past summer. As I encountered several fellow Jews out and about, I found myself thinking about how to form an occasional summer *minyan* among the islanders, something that is admittedly farther from my mind when I am in the city (and reading Richard Dawkins). It is no doubt a function of our harsh climate during the long Canadian winter, but our organized spirituality more often takes place in large, heated (and air-conditioned) buildings, far removed from the idea of an ecological imperative.

And with Jewish communal activities in general, it becomes easier – though, of course, not impossible – to mentally divorce the idea of sub-communal affiliation from global affiliation, including our responsibility to the earth. Yet, it is only with a far-reaching vision that we can ensure a place for future generations to be Jewish – or anything at all, for that matter.

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Chelm fun that goes beyond the mere foolish

Recently I've come to realize that I have often commemorated our "times of gladness," especially Sukkot and Simchat Torah, by including at least one funny book in my holiday reviews. That's because, as far as I'm concerned, nothing stimulates the spirit and depicts gladness better than a wholehearted belly laugh.

This year, I will be going one step further. My next three columns will be about funny books. Each will incorporate key elements of old style Jewish humour, but the books are written in such a way as to provide both laughter and lessons for contemporary readers. I'll begin with a book that could easily be mistaken for more of the same old, same old, but really isn't.

The Brothers Schlemiel

By Mark Binder

Illustrated by Zevi Blum

The Jewish Publication Society 2008

248 pages. Ages 10 to adult.

As any serious Jewish laugher knows, Jewish humour comes in many guises. Among the most popular are trickster stories and their opposite, stories about people who think they are clever or tricksters but are actually fools. The Chelm stories of old fell into the latter category. For example, the people of Chelm tried to catch the moon and preserve the diamond-like sparkling beauty of a new snowfall.

The Brothers Schlemiel, however, goes beyond the mere foolish. Although set in Chelm, and incorporating a lot of the expected Chelm *shick*, award-winning author and storyteller, Mark Binder, skillfully adds twin tricksters, gypsies, bandits, Cossacks, a town drunk who isn't, a curse, romance, politics, and more, to his stories.

Originally serialized in the *Houston Jewish Herald-Voice*, with excerpts appearing in several other American Jewish community papers, the 100 installments that made up that serialization are now being offered to a larger readership as a 45 chapter novel.

The novel follows the life and times of identical twin brothers, Abraham and Adam Schlemiel (or is it Adam and Abraham Schlemiel?), from birth to Mud's marriage (yes, a name change) at age 17.

While each chapter tells its own story, mistaken identity



Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

and the mental connectedness of the twins are themes that reappear frequently. Though born 12 hours apart, one twin is a subject of Poland and the other a subject of Russia, and their father mixes them up at birth. The mixed-up identity game continues fast and furiously from then on. Later in the story, we learn that only their much younger sister, Shmeenie, can tell them apart. But she doesn't rain on their parade by letting on to anyone, not even their constantly befuddled parents.

In case anyone might be tempted to take these stories seriously, the Yiddish names of many of the Jewish characters are a big clue that you shouldn't. 'Schlemiel brothers' translates to 'foolish brothers.' 'Rabbi Kibbitz' is self-explanatory even to non-Yiddish speakers. And the town drunk's name is 'Reb Shikker,' meaning 'drunkard.'

In addition, we learn that the richest man in town, Reb Cantor, though a merchant of great fame, never has any money. And the finest carpenter, father Jacob Schlemiel, finally finishes his best cabinets on the inside where the valuables will lay rather than tending to the outside of the cabinets that everybody will see.

Along the way, the Schlemiel brothers each have their *bris*, celebrate Pesach, go to school, befriend gypsies, exorcise demons, overpower robbers, observe their Bar Mitzvahs, escape recruitment into the Russian Army, fall in love, and much, much more as over and over again they drive everyone but Shmeenie crazy. Underlying all this mayhem, however, are deeply held feelings of love for family, friends and the entire community of Chelm.

Illustrator Zevi Blum adds to the confusion in some of the stories with exaggerated pictures that pile detail upon detail upon detail until the reader is delightfully overwhelmed with



By Mark Binder; illustrated by Zevi Blum

his bizarre portrayals of people and events. I found myself being surprised, amused and befuddled.

A word about how to read *The Brothers Schlemiel*: In true storytelling fashion, this is a book that is best if read aloud, one or two chapters at a time. It's a great way to reduce stress. As Rabbi Kibbitz said, "Wisdom shmidom. What good is knowing everything if you can't laugh?"

I can see teachers reading it to classes, parents and grandparents reading it to kids at bedtime and everyone laughing heartily.

From my family to yours, *Chag Sameach!*

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Israeli folk dancing classes for 10- to 16-year-olds at SJCC

By Phil Kretzmar

It used to be that if a Jewish kid wanted to do some Israeli dancing, she or he would have to wait until summer camp.

Not any more.

This fall, the Soloway Jewish Community Centre will offer a new program for the very first time. Starting October 28, tweens and teens from 10 to 16 can meet with me on Tuesday evenings in the Hillel gym to learn and do Israeli folk dances.

The idea grew out of my many years as the Ottawa Israeli Folkdancers' leader and frequent instructor.

I noticed, over the years, that the group attracted younger kids who came to

the regular Tuesday evening folk dancing sessions with their parents. They always brought with them great energy and enthusiasm, adding much sparkle to the fun of the dance.

So, an idea was born.

Why not a class for kids?

Why not provide an opportunity for kids to come and learn dances, both traditional and new—a chance to experience the *ruach* and energy of Israeli folk dancing?

The dances taught will be a mix of traditional and modern with many fun and funky dances.

After all, Israeli dances are no longer just *horas*;

these days they are a mélange of styles, some even including hip-hop.

I've been teaching Israeli folk dancing with the Ottawa Israeli Folkdancers for many years. I've also taught Israeli folk dancing at a number of Hebrew schools in Ottawa, to children at CAMMAC, the music camp in the Laurentians, as well as at some schools in the Ottawa Carleton District School Board.

In November of 2006, I attended a workshop in Albany, New York, on teaching Israeli folk dancing to children.

The class will be held from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm, every Tuesday, from

October 28 to December 16. The cost is two dollars per evening, per child.

Classes take place in the gym at Hillel Academy, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private.

While the class will be geared to children between the ages of 10 and 16, children just a bit older or younger who are keen to come are welcome to try it out.

It is intended for beginners, so children with no experience with folk dancing are welcome as are kids with some experience who also want to dance.

If you want to move and groove Israeli-style, come on out and enjoy the fun!

For more information, call me at 613-722-9323.



Phil Kretzmar leads some enthusiastic young dancers in the park.

Grandparent's Circle to help grandparents nurture Jewishness of interfaith children

By Roslyn Wollock
SJCC Adult Program Manager

The Grandparent's Circle, an innovative new program launched this year by the Jewish Outreach Institute (JOI) to help grandparents present their Jewish heritage to their grandchildren being raised in intermarried households, will be introduced in Ottawa at the

end of October. The program, a joint initiative of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC) and AJASO+ will be facilitated by Nancy Bercoffit, a retired educator, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Paul Golin, JOI's associate director, says that grandparents are an often-overlooked influence on the lives of children. It was found,

through JOI's research on the adult children of intermarried couples, that one of the major influences on the religious identities of those young adults was their grandparents.

The inspiration for the program was the book, *Twenty Things for Grandparents of Interfaith Grandchildren to Do*, written by Golin and Rabbi Kerry M. Olitzky. Bettina Kurowski, a grandmother of children being raised in an interfaith home, and an active member of her Jewish community in Los Angeles, was looking for a way to help determine

what role she should play in passing on the Jewish heritage that is so precious to her. After reading the book, Kurowski and her husband were moved to donate the funds to build a curriculum around it.

The result is a program that allows grandparents to meet in small groups for five weeks of guided discussion, sharing concerns and learning specific skills for passing on Jewish history and tradition in a non-obtrusive manner.

"Grandparents want to pass on their Jewish identity and background. They want

to share their history and who they are with their grandchildren, but it has to be done in a way that's interesting to children," says Liz Marcovitz, a program officer at JOI. "You can't just start talking about Judaism without context."

Grandparents interested in registering for this free program can call the SJCC at 613-798-9818.

The course begins on Monday evening, October 27.

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(Continued on page 22)

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(Continued from page 21)

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A working man I am

Humour me,
please



Rubin Friedman

hero John McLain – somehow a very appropriate connection that I have managed to work into this column.

Certainly, when such politicians work a room, they work on everyone they meet to try to get their vote. And when I see a real expert in glad handing, I think this person really knows how to 'work it,' a phrase I hear in work out classes where the trainer is trying to get you to move your body parts. This is because I work on my weight by working off my excess energy.

I am also pondering that, in the scientific world, work is the product of a force applied to an object that moves it a certain distance. This means that, if you use more energy in the force, you will do more work. But, when I am at work, the amount of work I do is proportional to the quantity and quality of the object(s) I produce. So, if one person finds it easy to write a good effective sentence and can produce more of them in an hour than others, that person can do more work than a colleague who slaves away at producing a smaller amount of the same quality in the same time.

I think, in the end, I have managed to work it through. And, if you ever encounter a challenge that is too big, you can always work around it.

Still, if I, as an expert on work, am ever asked for my opinion on the matter, I will say, "Whatever works for you."



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Long live Girl Power!

I grew up with four sisters.

One of our favourite games involved emptying the basement bookshelf and turning it into an apartment building for our Barbie dolls. We'd fill the shelves with plastic Barbie furniture and make closets to store all the Barbie clothes and shoes. Often we would fill a large roasting pan with water and pretend that this was Barbie's swimming pool. Our Barbies were quite the daredevils, jumping from the roof (top shelf) into the swimming pool.

(In the interest of total disclosure, I should also mention that I have one brother. But he wasn't born until I was 16, so he wasn't present at that time.)

Because I grew up with all those sisters, I did not need very many friends when I was little. There was always someone to play with. However, as I grew older, I did eventually make friends of my own.

I attended Camp B'nai Brith/Northland (Haliburton) for eight years as a camper and then later as staff. I think the pinnacle of my camp years was my CIT summer in 1974. Our CIT cabin was a long building with three rooms, each housing 10 girls.

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I was in the 'Left Wing' of the CIT cabin. It was here that I first formed friendships outside my own family. One of the girls from the Left Wing remains my best friend to this very day and I have kept in touch with several others over the years.

Last month, we had a Left Wing reunion dinner in Toronto. I was a little anxious about awkward silences. After all, I had not seen some of these women in more than 30 years.

It turned out that my worries were needless. It was amazing how easily we reconnected. There was lots of laughter as we recalled our youth and got caught up on each other's lives. We all marvelled over the fact that none of us had aged. We all looked exactly the same (well, more or less,

Spiced Mixed Nuts

This recipe comes from *Fine Cooking Magazine* (Dinner Party 2008 issue).

These nuts are a great snack to have with drinks. They are perfect for entertaining as they can be made a week ahead of time and stored in an airtight container.

4 cups mixed unsalted nuts (such as cashews, macadamia nuts, almonds, pecans or walnuts)
1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh rosemary
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 and 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Scatter nuts on a rimmed baking sheet and bake, shaking the sheet a couple of times during baking, until the nuts are nicely toasted, 10 to 15 minutes.

While nuts are toasting, set a small heavy skillet over medium-high heat. Sprinkle in coriander and cumin and heat until aromatic, about 30 seconds.

Remove pan from heat and add the butter, brown sugar, rosemary, and cayenne.

Return the skillet to low heat and stir until the butter melts and sugar dissolves, about 2-3 minutes. Keep warm.

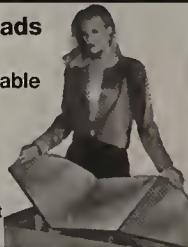
Tip nuts into a large bowl, pour warm spiced butter over the nuts, and add kosher salt. Stir until the nuts are well coated. Taste for seasoning and add more salt if needed.

Let cool completely before serving.

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but I'm sure it helped that everyone left her reading glasses at home).

What was truly amazing was that all 10 of us were in good health and that nine of us were still married to our first (and only, we hope) husbands. The evening was a success and we all agreed not to wait another 34 years until our next reunion.

Here are some wonderful recipes to try the next time you get together with your girlfriends. Long live Girl Power!

Parmesan Tortilla Crisps

This recipe comes from the Food Network show *Everyday Italia*.

Corn tortillas are usually available frozen. I can always find them at Herb and Spice on Wellington.

These crisps keep for about two days in an airtight container.

1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon dried oregano
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
12 (6-inch) corn tortillas (thawed if frozen)
1 cup freshly shredded Parmesan
1/2 to 1 teaspoon kosher salt

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

Line two heavy large baking sheets with aluminum foil. Whisk olive oil, oregano and pepper in a small saucepan over medium heat until just warm. Set aside for 15 minutes to cool slightly.

Brush oil mixture over both sides of the tortillas. Stack the tortillas and cut them into 3/4 inch wide strips.

Arrange the strips in a single layer over baking sheets. Sprinkle the cheese and salt over the strips.

Bake until strips are golden brown and crisp, about 10-12 minutes.



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Abigail Rabinovitch on all her hard work for the Sheva Brachos by Devora and Josef Caytak.

Issie Scarsowsky for the beautiful Sheva Bracha and the beautiful photos by Devora and Josef Caytak.

Mazal Tov to:

Rabbi Mendel and Dina Blum on the birth of their new born daughter by Devora and Josef Caytak.

Stephen and Heidi Polowin on the recent marriage of their daughter by Devora and Josef Caytak.

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Mazal Tov to:

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Mazal Tov to:

Sandi and Eddy Cook on the birth of their grandson Jack by Bev and Irving Swedko.

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Abe Fleming by Bev and Irving Swedko.

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Mazal Tov to:

Sandi and Eddy Cook on the birth of their grandson Jack by Barry and Ricki Baker.

Rena and Max Cohen on the arrival of their granddaughter Avalia Pearl by Barry and Ricki Baker.

In memory of:

Earl Blevis by Barry and Ricki Baker.

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Norm Barwin by Debbie Wiseman.

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MARTIN AND ELLIE BLACK ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Martin and Ellie Black on the engagement of

Continued on page 28

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Andrea to Michael by Pat and Morris Neumen.

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In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

Dora Waserman, a beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother by Arlene and Mel Schwey and family.

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In memory of:

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Earl Blevis by Sid and Barbara Cohen.

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Congratulations to:

Sandi and Eddy Cook on the birth of their grandson Jack by Murray and Bryna Cohen; and by Sara and David Lipnowski.

Joan and Russell Kronick on the birth of their granddaughter Olivia by Sandi and Eddy Cook.

In memory of:

Larry Aron by Sandi and Eddy Cook and family.

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Jessica and Mark Borenstein on the arrival of their son Jack by Sam and Susan Firestone.

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In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

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Mazal Tov to:

Dale Fyman on the birth of his first grandchild by Fran and Sid Gershberg.

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Happy and healthy New Year to:

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In memory of:

Larry Aron by Pauline Hochberg.

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Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Singer by Stan and Libby Katz.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Greenberg by Stan and Libby Katz.

In memory of:

Egon Kenton by Stan and Libby Katz.

Birthday wishes to:

Libby Katz by Sally and Morton Taller.

ARTHUR AND SARAH KIMMEL

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of:

Larry Aron by Roz and Arnie Kimmel and family.

Continued on page 29

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If you would like to make changes
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Changes received verbally will not be accepted
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Rhoda Levitan by Valerie, Mark, Lome and Butch Eisen.

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Mazal Tov to:

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Earl Blevis by David and Susan Kriger.

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Happy and healthy New Year to:

Charles Kushner by Richard and Alice Kronick.

Speedy recovery to:

Arlene Glube by Dr. Sidney Kronick and Barbara Sugerman.

Mazal Tov to:

Sandi and Eddy Cook on the birth of their grandson by Dr. Sidney Kronick and Barbara Sugerman.

JOAN AND RUSSELL KRONICK FAMILY FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Joan and Russell Kronick on becoming grandparents by Fran and Stan Ages.

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R'fuah Sh'lema to:

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In memory of:

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GEORGE LESH MIRACLE FUND

In memory of:

Larry Aron by George Lesh.

RHODA AND JOE LEVITAN AND FAMILY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

Speedy recovery to:

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RUTH AND RON LEVITAN ENDOWMENT FUND

Happy and healthy New Year to:

Paul and Sheila Roth by Ruth and Ron Levitan.
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Mazal Tov to:

Bonnie and Chuck Merovitz on the birth of your grandson by Ruth and Ron Levitan.

In memory of:

Fran Ross and family by Ruth and Ron Levitan.

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Speedy recovery to:

Dr. Ken Pearl by Miriam Levitin.

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Anniversary wishes to:

Evelyn and Joe Lieff on their 55th wedding anniversary by Joan and Henry Bloom; by Blossom Read; and by Clair Krantzberg.

In memory of:

Larry Aron by Joe and Evelyn Lieff.

R'fuah Sh'lema to:

Rhoda Levitan by Joe and Evelyn Lieff, and by Francine and Norman Lieff and family.

Mazal Tov to:

Rabbi Mendel and Dina Blum on the birth of their daughter by Francine and Norman Lieff and family.

In memory of:

Larry Aron by Francine and Norman Lieff and family.

Fred Pinkus by Francine and Norman Lieff and family.

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Happy and healthy New Year to:

Dr. & Mrs. Harvey Lithwick and family by Harold and Marcia Fein and family.

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In memory of:

Larry Aron by Goldie, Allan and Merrill, Paul and Alison and Erie and Susie Lobel.

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Earl Blevis by Estelle and Ian Melzer.

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Mazal Tov to:

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In observance of the Yahrzeit of:

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Derrick Blumenthal on his 50th birthday by Gerry and Mary-Belle Pulvermacher.

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Rabbi Shmuelik and Dvora Rodal on the birth and bris of Menachem Mendel and the marriage of Laizer Dovid and Malka by Alti and Berel Rodal.

In memory of:

Pearl Scope by Alti and Berel Rodal.

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Larry Arron by Sol and Zelaine Shinder.

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Nadine Mordfield's special birthday by Stan Kimmel and Carol Spiro.

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Mazal Tov to:
Ben Shusterman on his Swearing in Ceremony for the Golani Brigade of the IDF by Mom and Dad.
Vivien and Dubi Saggi on the wedding of their daughter Chen to Guy Atia by Lome and Laurie Shusterman.

R'fuah Sh'lema to:
Martin Broady by Lome and Laurie Shusterman.



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With sincere appreciation to:
Gary Steinberg by Heidi and Stephen Polowin.

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Bessie Litvack by Sally and Morton Taller.

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Abe Fleming by Sunny and John Tavel.
Jules Loeb by Sunny and Tavel.

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R'fuah Sh'lema to:
Ethel Taylor by Robyn Goldberg; and by Emily, David and Sarah Aaron.

Mazal Tov to:

Ethel and Irving Taylor on their three granddaughters' graduation from Fran and Stan Ages.

LISE AND MARK THAW FAMILY FUND

Happy and healthy New Year to:
Dorothy Nadolny by Barbara and Gerry Thaw.
Lise, Mark, Elayna and Brian Thaw by Barbara and Gerry Thaw.

Susan and Joel Greenberg by Barbara and Gerry Thaw.

Barbara and Gerald Thaw by Lise, Mark, Elayna and Bryan Thaw.

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Chantelle and Lawrence Nadolny and the boys in their new home by Lise, Mark, Elayna and Bryan Thaw.

Congratulations to:

Rabbi Mendel and Dina Blum on the birth of their daughter by Lise, Mark, Elayna and Bryan Thaw.

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Rhoda Levitan by Lise, Mark, Elayna and Bryan Thaw.

In Memory of:

Larry Arron by Lise, Mark, Elayna and Bryan Thaw.

Fred Pinkus by Lise, Mark, Elayna and Bryan Thaw.

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In observance of the Yahrzeit of:
Chenya Toronto, a beloved mother by Jean Naemark.

Michael Toronto by Jean Naemark.

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In memory of:

Larry Arron by Stephen and Gail Victor.
Jules Loeb by Stephen and Gail Victor.

Mazal Tov to:

Stephen and Gail Victor on becoming grandparents by Corinne and Sheldon Taylor.

RUTH AND JOSEPH VINER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Roslyn Cogan by Ruth and Joe Viner.
Lawrence Arron by Ruth and Joe Viner.
Jules Loeb by Ruth and Joe Viner.

R'fuah Sh'lema to:

Rhoda Levitan by Ruth and Joe Viner.

MIRIAM AND LOUIS WEINER ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of:

Abby Evencick by Miriam and Lou Weiner.
Larry Arron by Miriam and Lou Weiner.

MILDRED AND PERCY WEINSTEIN ENDOWMENT FUND

Congratulations to:

Alfred and Kaysa Friedman on the recent marriage of Michael to Lia Vollack by Millie Weinstein.

In memory of:

Larry Arron by Millie Weinstein.

Abe Fleming by Millie Weinstein.

HALTON/WEISS FAMILY FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Margo and Judah Silverman on the engagement of Daniel to Rachel by The Weiss Family.

Lisa Rosenkrantz and Michael Walsh on the engagement of Aaron to Jackie by the Weiss family.

In memory of:

Abbey Evencick by Debbie and Ron Weiss.

Happy and healthy New Year to:

Shelli and Steven Kimmel and family by the Halton-Weiss family.

Dr. Harvey Finkelstein and Elaine Scales by the Weiss family.

ZIPES KARANOFSKY FAMILY ENDOWMENT FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Howard and Deborah Krebs on the engagement of Jonathon to Metal Stern by Rick and Helen Zipes.

In memory of:

Abe Fleming by Rick and Helen Zipes and family.

THE SAUL AND EDNA GOLDFARB B'NAI MITZVAH PROGRAM

SARAH ESTHER LESH B'NAI MITZVAH FUND

Mazal Tov to:

Sandi and Eddy Cook on becoming a Bubbie and Zaidie by Liz Lesh and family.

JUSTIN WAKTER MITZVAH FUND

Happy and healthy New Year to:

Morris Lang by Sally and Morton Taller.

Gaye and Joel Taller and family by Sally and Morton Taller.

Dr. Norman and Judy Tenenbaum by Sally and Morton Taller.

Beverley and Bemie Zaifman and family by Sally and Morton Taller.

Zenia Zaifman by Sally and Morton Taller.

Pauline and Larry Makler by Sally and Morton Taller.

David Segal by Sally and Morton Taller.

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Sixteen Jewish medals at the summer Olympics

In the pool, Americans Jason Lezak, Garrett Weber-Gale and Ben Wildman-Tobriner won gold in the men's 4 x 100 m freestyle relay. Lezak and Weber-Gale also finished on top of the podium in the 4 x 100 m medley relay with Lezak adding a bronze medal in the 100 m freestyle. Dara Torres captured silver medals for the U.S. swim team in the women's 4 x 100 m freestyle relay, the 50 m relay and the 4 x 100 m medley relay, while Merrill Moses took home a silver medal in water polo.

Sada Jacobson won silver and bronze for the U.S. in the fencing and team saber competition. Josh West won silver for Great Britain in rowing and Vasyl Fedoryshyn grappled his way silver in the 60 kg wrestling event.

Argentina's Gisele Kanevsky took home field hockey bronze and Israel's 21-year-old Shahar Zubari captured a windsurfing medal rallying from fourth place in the final round to take the bronze. That was the same event in which Gal Fridman won Israel's only Olympic gold in Athens four years ago.

Canadian Jews in Beijing

Adam Stern played on Canada's baseball team that finished sixth in the Olympic tournament. The London, Ontario, outfielder played briefly in the big leagues with Boston and Baltimore. He played a few games in Ottawa while doing AAA time with Pawtucket and Norfolk.

Ari Taub of Calgary was defeated in the preliminaries of the Greco Roman 120 kg wrestling event. Taub, 37, overcame many personal challenges to qualify for his first Olympics.

He almost represented Canada in Barcelona and poor health and unfortunate timing prevented him from reaching Atlanta and Athens. The six-foot-three, 269-pound Taub embodied the true spirit of the Games by making it to the Greco Roman Olympic wrestling mat in Beijing after a 16-year journey.

Montreal Wrestling Club's David Zilberman – coached by his father Victor – was eliminated in the freestyle qualifying rounds.

Softball finals

Congratulations to the Shlebs, the 2008 Jewish Men's Softball League Champions.

The yellow and black squad, led by left fielder Steven Lieff played hard, with spirit and sportsmanship, showing great respect for their opponents.

Runner-up Green Machine gave it their best until the very last out and must also be recognized for getting to the last three league finals.

Many thanks to league stats man Howie Miller for doing a great job despite many rainouts causing havoc with the schedule.

R'fuah Shlema

Golfer John Holzman is recovering nicely from surgery this past summer. John has been involved in playing and an administrative capacity with the Quebec Golf Association.



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and the Royal Canadian Golf Association for more than 20 years and once competed for Ontario's golf team in tournament play. John has had the distinction of twice being an adviser to Canada's golf team at the Maccabi Games in Israel.

Rothman Golf Classic report

The second annual golf tournament in memory of Sid Rothman was an overwhelming success. Son Marshall reports that 140 golfers participated, raising more than \$36,000 for the Ottawa Heart Institute, bringing the total to \$80,000 in two years.

High sticking in the nation's capital

Bryan Altshuller is the new owner of the Nepean Raiders. Centre Andrew Calof and Bryan's son Shaun make the 5-0 Raiders, coached by Garry Galley, the team with the most Jewish talent in the Central Junior A League.

A hockey zimun in the Limestone City

Ethan Werck declined a hockey scholarship at Boston University to play for the Kingston Frontenacs this season.

Werck had an outstanding 2007-08 campaign. The power forward was a member of Canada East's Silver Medal team at the World Junior A Challenge and won gold with Ontario at the prestigious World U17 Hockey Challenge. He was the OPJHL's Rookie of the Year, scoring 29 goals for the Stouffville Spirit and has also seen ice time with Israel's National Junior team in IIHF tournament play.

Playing a full CHL season in front of National Hockey League scouts should enhance Werck's position in this year's NHL draft. Werck's cousin, Jamie Sokolsky, was drafted by Philadelphia and played professionally in the ECHL and WCHL.

Also hitting the ice this season for the Fronts is rugged defenceman Jesse Hebsher who played for Sudbury last season and six-foot-two defender Zack Fenwick.

Fenwick's grandfather, Péter Bakonyi, won bronze medals for Hungary at the 1968 and 1972 Olympics. As a tribute to his grandfather, Zack sports a tattoo of a fencer on his calf.

Kingston's owner, Doug Springer, is also a member of the tribe and has traditionally welcomed Jewish players to his home on the High Holidays.



2008 Jewish Men's Softball League Champions, the Shlebs

WHAT'S GOING ON

October 13 to 26, 2008

For a further listings
visit [www.jewishottawa.org/
calendar/planitjewish](http://www.jewishottawa.org/calendar/planitjewish)



ON-GOING PROGRAMS

Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race exhibition, through display and specific programs, looks at how the Nazis used eugenics to justify mass murder and, ultimately,



CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

EREV SUKKOT

Oct 13 ⚡ 6:02 pm

First Day SUKKOT

Oct 14 ⚡ after

7:02 pm

Oct 17 ⚡ 5:55 pm

Oct 24 ⚡ 5:44 pm

the Holocaust, Canadian War Museum, until November 11. Info: 819-776-8600.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

TUESDAYS

Israeli Folkdancing, no experience or partner required, Hillel Academy, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 6:30 pm. Info: 613-722-9323.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Grand Simchat Torah Celebration, sponsored by Ottawa Torah Centre Chabad, open to all; dancing, chairs, flags and treats, 3023 Cedarview Road, 6:45 pm. Info: 613-843-0497.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

Yiddish-speaking group for seniors, sponsored by Jewish Family Services; *Kump un redt a bisl mameh-loshn mit undz!* 2255 Carling Avenue, suite 300, 12:00 pm. Info: 613-722-2225, ext. 325.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Annual General Meeting and Brunch of the Ottawa Post of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, with guest speaker is Eric Vernon of Canadian Jewish Congress on perspectives on contemporary anti-Semitism and hate speech, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldey Avenue, 11:30 am. Info: 613-828-4241

Hillel Lodge Auxiliary Tea, in honour of Sarah Swedler. Annual fundraiser for Hillel Lodge, 10 Nadolny Sachs Private, 2:00 pm. Info: 613-820-4004.

From Darkness to Light: The Harrowing Story of the Stermer Family, launch of Holocaust Education Program, family members tell story of survival by hiding for two years in a cave system in Nazi-occupied Ukraine, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 253.

COMING SOON

OCTOBER 26 TO NOVEMBER 23 Holocaust Education Program 2008, sponsored by the Shoah (Holocaust) Committee of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. For program details, see www.jewishottawa.org.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

Kosher: A Diet for the Soul, sponsored by Ottawa Torah Center Chabad, Loblaw's and Ottawa Vaad HaKashrut, three-week series looks at the ins and outs of the kosher diet, Loblaw's College Square, 1980 Baseline Road, 8:00 pm. Info: 613-843-0497.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Israeli folkdancing for kids aged 10 to 16, no previous knowledge necessary; learn dances and have fun! 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 6:30 pm. Info: 613-722-9323.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

CHOICES, sponsored by the Jewish

Federation of Ottawa Women's Division, with guest speaker: Ruth Andrew Ellenson, winner of the 2005 National Book Award for "The Modern Jewish Girl's Guide to Guilt," Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldey Avenue, 6:45 pm. Info: 613-798-4696, ext. 270.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

The World of Yiddish Today, sponsored by the SJCC, first of two lectures (next on November 16). Topic: Secular Circles explores how Yiddish is incorporated in the secular world, including the arts, education, publication and translation, taught by Professor Rebecca Margolis, 10:30 am. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 254.

History of Jews in China, sponsored by Emanuah Women, dinner and talk by Mr. Su Zhe, first secretary in the Embassy of People's Republic of China in Canada, 11 Clemow Avenue, 6:00 pm. Info: 613-241-5613.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Community Campus of Ottawa Inc. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should make sure they are recorded by Benita Siemiatycki, calendar coordinator at 613-798-4696 ext. 227. We have voice mail. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public. You may fax to 798-4695 or email to bsiemiatycki@ewishottawa.com.

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Condolences

Condolences are extended to the families of:

Peter Braun, Montreal (father of Jon Braun)

Margaret Colwin

Stephen Dworkin

Moe Held

Rabbi Michael Levinson

May their memory be a blessing always.

The CONDOLENCE COLUMN is offered as a public service to the community. There is no charge.

For a listing in this column, please call Carolene Preap, 613-798-4696, ext. 232. Voice mail is available.

BULLETIN DEADLINES

OCTOBER 22 FOR NOVEMBER 10

NOVEMBER 5 FOR NOVEMBER 24

NOVEMBER 26 FOR DECEMBER 15*

2009

JANUARY 7 FOR JANUARY 26

JANUARY 21 FOR FEBRUARY 9

FEBRUARY 4 FOR FEBRUARY 23

* Community-wide issue (all dates subject to change)

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